

A SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH ANNOTATIONS

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Even Chronic Diseases Improved—Making due allowance for an aging population and war losses, the 6.5 per 1,000 death rate for 1952 (in a sample that has long proved uncannily prophetic) becomes really lower than the lowest previous rate in the same sample (6.4 in 1950). Tuberculosis death rates dropped 25 per cent below that of the previous year; and despite the magnitude of the polio epidemic the death rate was only 1.4 as against 1.7 in 1949. There is, of course, a lot more in this remarkable record.

ANON. Mortality Continued at Low Level in 1952. *Statist. Bull. Metrop. Life Insur. Co.* 34, 1:1 (Jan.), 1953.

Four Program Reports—Courses offered to adults by public schools will range from prenatal care to geriatrics and from first aid to mental hygiene if exploratory ventures now in being follow a natural expansion into areas of greatest usefulness. This appears to be something you should know about.

AVERY, E. S. Adults Go Back to School for Health. *J. Health & Phys. Educ.* 24, 2:9 (Feb.), 1953.

Character Building—Anyone who has even the remotest concern about maternal and child health will profit by reading this discussion of the probable effects of some current psychiatric teaching. Forgive just one quotation: "... the field of mental health is dominated by inadequately documented rationalizations and is divided into schools of thought with their loyalties and antagonisms."

BAKWIN, H. The Aims of Child Rearing. *New England J. Med.* 248, 6:227 (Feb. 5), 1953.

Fertile Families—Given here is confirmation of the postulate that the size of the parent's families affects the fertility of a married couple. In Great Britain, at any rate, it seems to hold—and for both sides of the family tree, though the influence of the wife's family size appears the stronger.

BERENT, J. Relationship Between Family Size of Two Successive Generations. *Milbank Mem. Fund Quart.* 31, 1:39 (Jan.), 1953.

Controlling Streptococcal Infections—Rheumatic fever is a recurrent disease which can be prevented. So begins an official statement released by the Council on Rheumatic Fever of the American Heart Association. How one city put the statement to the test is told in a following paper.

BREESE, B. B., *et al.* The Prevention of Rheumatic Fever (and) SMITH, M. A. A Community Program for the Prevention of Rheumatic Fever Recurrence. *Pub. Health Rep.* 68, 1:12 (Jan.), 1953.

National Health Need—"The primary health need . . . is for a health service instrument that will offer an intimate personal service to which the individual can turn for assistance . . . and a sound basic diagnostic and therapeutic service that will assure the individual a good first line of protection. . . . Despite technical progress . . . the family doctor is this instrument." This paper goes on from there and if you don't go

with it you'll be missing something you shouldn't.

COLLINS, J. S., and CLARK, D. M. General Practice, Today and Tomorrow. *New England J. Med.* 248, 4:141 (Jan. 22), 1953.

Most Have Them, Though—This assertion may prove hard to believe, I suspect, in this advanced age. There is one state in which there is no statutory provision for local boards of health. Though provided for, local departments of health do not function in some other states—or so it is here reported.

GREVE, C. H. Provisions of State Laws Governing Local Health Departments. *Pub. Health Rep.* 68, 1:31 (Jan.), 1953.

How Many Calories?—How closely the findings may apply to America is not clear. However, in England (during the war years) if the food supply equalled or exceeded 3,000 calories per head per day, adults gained weight. When calories fell below 2,900, adults lost weight and "complained" (though there was no measurable ill health as a consequence).

HARRIES, J. M., and HOLLINGSWORTH, D. F. Food Supply, Body Weight and Activity in Great Britain 1943-1949. *Brit. M. J.* 4801:75 (Jan. 10), 1953.

Post-Grantly Dick Read—Now comes "sensible childbirth"—a program requiring less than two hours of prenatal instruction, other than routine prenatal care. During labor the "sensibly" prepared mother gets as much or as little anesthesia as she wants. The patient is ambulatory immediately after delivery.

HIRSH, L. Sensible Childbirth. *GP* 7, 2:61 (Feb.), 1953.

Still a Controversial Subject?—Sex education, as undertaken by the Oregon schools, is based on the assumption that the "facts of life" sort of information is not enough, but sex educa-

tional booby traps should be identified and skirted if the program planners are to avoid controversy.

HOYMAN, H. S. Basic Issues in School Sex Education. *J. School Health* 23, 1:14 (Jan.), 1953.

More About Rheumatic Fever—Oral penicillin seven successive days each month (supplemented by a second course during January, February, and March) proved as effective as any prophylaxis against rheumatic fever in susceptibles.

KOHN, K. H., et al. Prophylaxis of Recurrences of Rheumatic Fever with Penicillin Given Orally. *J.A.M.A.* 151, 5:347 (Jan. 31), 1953.

How Defective Can You Get?—A large group of supposedly "healthy" office employees (over 45 years) revealed for the first time: significant tumors—1 in 18 cases; heart disease—1 in 25; severe hypertension—1 in 20; undiagnosed diabetes—1 in 48; easily recognized psychiatric conditions—1 in 15.

McCOMBS, R. P., and FINN, J. J., JR. Group Health Surveys in a Diagnostic Center. *New England J. Med.* 248, 5:166 (Jan. 29), 1953.

"Where There Is No Vision . . ."—This first Charles-Edward Amory Winslow lecture contrasts the concepts of broad leadership vs. narrow technology. It is the sort of state paper that cannot possibly be epitomized in a paragraph. Here, one may only label it a "must"—and for all.

SCHEELE, L. A. Public Health Statesmanship. *Pub. Health Rep.* 68, 1:1 (Jan.), 1953.

All About Salt—Do you know the derivation of: "Worth his salt"? Where did our word "salary" come from? How did Saltville get its name? Answers to these and a score or more of completely impractical—but intriguing—questions

should provide you with pleasant reading if you have any curiosity whatever about anything but your trade.

SMITH, J. R. Salt. *Nutrition Rev.* 11, 2:33 (Feb.), 1953.

Looking on the Bright Side—
Rheumatic, hypertensive, and coronary heart diseases are described in nontech-

nical language, and what is being done to combat them is explained briefly and equally clearly. Almost anyone but a cardiologist can read this paper with a lot of profit: perhaps it would do no harm even to the cardiologist.

WHEATLEY, G. M. Are We Gaining on Heart Disease? *J. Health & Phys. Educ.* 24, 2:16 (Feb.), 1953.

If additional information is desired regarding the articles listed in this Bibliography, please communicate directly with the publications in which they appear; the addresses are furnished for your convenience.

Brit. M. J. (British Medical Journal), British Medical Association House, 19 Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

J.A.M.A. (Journal of the American Medical Association), 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Ill.

J. Health & Phys. Educ. (Journal of Health and Physical Education), American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 1201 16th St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

J. School Health (The Journal of School Health), American School Health Association, 3335 Main St., Buffalo 14, N. Y.

Milbank Mem. Fund Quart. (The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly), 40 Wall St., New York 5, N. Y.

New England J. Med. (New England Journal of Medicine), Massachusetts Medical Society, 8 The Fenway, Boston, Mass.

Nutrition Rev. (Nutrition Reviews), Nutrition Foundation, Inc., Chrysler Building, New York 17, N. Y.

Pub. Health Rep. (Public Health Reports), Superintendent of Documents, Gov. Ptg. Office, Washington, D. C.

Statist. Bull. Metrop. Life Insur. Co. (Statistical Bulletin Metropolitan Life Insurance Company), 1 Madison Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Listing in this column acknowledges the receipt of books and our appreciation to the senders. Space and the interests of readers will permit review of some, but not all, of the books listed.

ALCOHOLISM, 1941-1951. Yale Center of Alcohol Studies. New Haven: *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, 1952. pp. 421-511. Price, \$1.00.

BCG VACCINATION. Studies by the WHO Tuberculosis Research Office, Copenhagen. Lydia B. Edwards, Carroll E. Palmer, and Knut Magnus. New York: Columbia University Press, 1953. 307 pp. Price, \$3.00.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRIAL SOLVENTS. Morris B. Jacobs and Leopold Scheffan.

New York: Interscience Publishers, 1953. 501 pp. Price, \$10.00.

THE CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES. Hugh Paul. New York: John de Graff, 1953. 526 pp. Price, \$9.50.

CRETE. A CASE STUDY OF AN UNDERDEVELOPED AREA. Leland G. Allbaugh. Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1953. 572 pp. Price, \$7.50.

DANGER SIGNALS. WARNINGS OF SERIOUS DISEASES. Walter C. Alvarez. Chicago, Ill.: